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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 2 Pages

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TO:

Planning Commission

Agenda of:

July 26, 2018

FROM:

Evan Mattes, Assistant Planner

Item No.:

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DATE:

July 25, 2018

RE:

Public Comments Received; S17-0016/AT&T CAF 4

Discussion:

As of Wednesday July 25, 2018, Planning Staff has received 47 written public comments regarding S17-0016 AT&T CAF II a Conditional Use Permit proposing seven new communication facilities throughout the rural areas of the El Dorado County. Of the 47 public comments received 36 comments were in support of the project, while 11 comments were opposed. The 36 positive public comments focused on how there is a lack of broadband internet coverage throughout the rural areas of the County, which the proposed project would provide and positive applications of internet services.

The 11 public comments that were opposed to the project focused on impacts to traffic, Radio Frequency (RF) Emissions, aesthetics, fire danger, potential of the tower falling, ice buildup, debris fallout, there is no lack of coverage in the rural areas, that the photo simulations are insufficient, impacts to birds and flaws on the site plan.

Traffic

The seven project sites have been analyzed by Long Range Planning and the Transportation Department which determined that the project would not significantly impact traffic.

RF Emissions

The project applicant has provided RF Emission reports demonstrating that the seven project sites are below the minimum requirements established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Aesthetic/Visual Simulations

Per Zoning Ordinance Section 130.40.130.D.1, where screening is not feasible the towers are required to blend with the surrounding area through paint or construction with stealth technology, including but not limited to stealth monopine towers. Each tower is proposed to be constructed using stealth technology. Furthermore, none of the seven project sites are within an

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identified scenic corridor or scenic vista. The photo simulations provided by the applicant comply with the visual simulation standards set forward by Section 130.40.130.C.

Fire and Other Hazards

The seven project sites were distributed to applicable fire protection districts and will be required to be constructed and engineered to current fire code. There is no knowledge of ice impacts or ice buildup to towers within the western slope of El Dorado County. The towers would be engineered and constructed to current building code minimizing the potential of falling debris and falling towers.

Bird Impacts

Potential impacts to birds were analyzed within the initial study. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 was incorporated to reduce impacts to birds to less than a significant level.

Coverage

Coverage maps were submitted by the applicant demonstrating substantial existing gaps in cellular coverage. Furthermore, the main objective of the project is to bring Broadband internet services to rural areas of the County, which currently does not exist.

Site Plan

The project would need to comply with the submitted site plans as well as the applicable setbacks for each zone. Regarding Site 2 Newtown, the tower would be required to be at least 30 feet from adjoining property lines. All proposed towers would be subject to the approval of El Dorado County.

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